Interview with
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Irwindale, Claifornia
August 13, 1957

As far as health is concerned, I would say that you find all types both in Mexico and up here. The men from the small villages are accustomed to going to a curandero when they are sick; and I have found in many, many cases that they prefer this kind of treatment even when they get up here. Sometimes they are able to locate a curandero in Los Angles or in one of the smaller towns aroun here. Many times they are able to find somebody right here in camp who knows the techniques and methods of the curandero. They will, for example, cook tea made out of herbs, ~~and~~ for all sorts of minor illnesses, this is the only kind of treatment that they will seek. I have seen men who had very severe colds who keep right on working just dosing themselves with these home remedies in the mornings and evenings. Eventually most of them get well this way. Even one of these fellows from a small village, however, will usually ask to see the doctor if he gets really sick. You have got to keep in mind that these fellows are very strong, very healthy; even before they come into this country. I guess they have to be in order to survive in

Health insurance

the conditions down in Mexico. Many of them have never been to a doctor in their lives because they have never needed to go to a doctor. They have never been that sick. Some, of course, are genuinely afraid of doctors. Just a week or ten days ago, we had a case here of a man who had a serious intestinal disturbance, a blockage of some kind, and the doctor advised that he should have an operation. The man absolutely refused. Under no circumstances was he going to permit his body to be cut open. Well, there is nothing we can do to force a man to receive medical care; so we had no choice, since the man was too sick to work, he had to be sent back to Mexico. Whether or not he will get well on his own, I have no idea.

Now, on the other hand, you will find some men who go on sick-call for the littlest things. It all depends on the education that they have had, whether they come from the big city, and things like that. Not long ago, we had a case here of a man who insisted on being operated on, even though our camp doctor could find nothing wrong with him. The fellow seemed so positive that he needed an operation, that we sent him aroun to four or five specialists, they couldn't find anything wrong with him either. This will give you an idea of the differences you will encounter when it comes to ideas about health.